

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the notice of allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended the specification and claim 24. In view of these amendments as well as the arguments set forth below, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow all claims that were not previously allowed.

I. OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION

As requested by the Examiner, Applicant has amended paragraph [28] of the specification to disclose that the insert may be constructed as a pin. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendment and withdraw the rejection to Applicant's specification.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner's rejections of claims 24 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amormino, U.S. Patent No. 4,669,240, in view of Harris, U.S. Patent No. 5,491,948, is respectfully traversed. Paragraph [27] of Applicant's specification states that "[i]t is also preferred that the extensions 28 are extensions of the inner bars 18 within the columnar supports 16a, 16b, as shown in Figure 3." Applicant has amended claim 24 to include this element. Amormino and the other references relied upon by the Examiner do not claim or describe "a plurality of reinforcement bar extensions at intervals on the bottom of each panel; wherein each of said reinforcement bar extensions comprises an extension of at least a portion of a vertical reinforcement bar below the bottom of the panel through which said vertical reinforcement bar passes." As a means for securely and stably placing the precast building panel (11), the Amormino patent uses dowels located in several locations both on the footing (43) and on the bottom end of outer panel element (19). On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the plurality of reinforcing bars/dowels/extensions (55) extend from

reinforcing bars (17) and (26). Neither the laterally spaced reinforcing steel dowels (51) nor the series of laterally spaced upright dowels (47) and (55) of Amormino are extensions of the welded steel wire mesh reinforcement (17) or of the bottom connector (26) of that reference. The Amormino dowels (47), (51), and (55) are clearly separate components rather than extensions of elements (17) and (26) of that invention. See Amormino, column 3, lines 36-39, 59-61; column 5, lines 9-16, 22-26; and Figures 1 and 4. The dowels (55) of Amormino project up into air space (33) so as to be embedded and anchored into the poured horizontal concrete connector (53) and are included within the footing (43) as cast, but are not connected to the wire mesh reinforcement (17) or of the bottom connector (26). The series of upright laterally spaced dowels (47) are welded along the length of the angle (45) and are embedded within the outer panel element (19). See Amormino, column 5, lines 9-13; and Figure 1. The dowels (47), (51), and (55) ensure that the upright panel (11) is adequately secured to the footing (43) in an upright position. See Amormino, Figure 1. Said dowels of the Amormino patent constitute elements of that invention that are separate and distinct from the welded steel wire mesh reinforcement (17) embedded within panel element (15) and also differs from the vertically-oriented spaced rods (23) to which the apexes (27) of the zig-zag truss elements (25) of that invention are welded. See Amormino, column 3, lines 32-39, 53-65; and Figures 1, 4, and 6.

Unlike Amormino, Applicant's invention claims and discloses a plurality of extensions 28 that extend vertically from the bottom side 24 of the panel 10 for placement of said panel into corresponding core holes 32 in a footer 30. See paragraph [27] of the present application. As described by the specification and as claimed in amended claim 24, the extensions 28 are extensions of the inner bars 18 within the columnar supports 16a and 16b. See paragraph [27] and Figures 3 and 4 of the present application. Clearly, Applicant's invention describes a markedly

different structure and method for placing a panel into a footer than that contemplated and described in Amormino.

The amendment of claim 24 pursuant to the Examiner's request also places claims 25-27 in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection and allow said claims.

With respect to claim 28, the Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of said claim under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being obvious because "the material used to fill the space (not labeled) in Amormino is grout." Dependent claim 28 depends upon amended independent claim 24, and thus, claim 28 incorporates by reference all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 24. 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph. The elements and limitations incorporated by reference into claim 28 include the novel features disclosed in claim 24 of "a plurality of reinforcement bar extensions at intervals on the bottom of each panel; wherein each of said reinforcement bar extensions comprises an extension of at least a portion of a vertical reinforcement bar below the bottom of the panel through which said vertical reinforcement bar passes." As explained above, this novel feature of Applicant's invention is not disclosed by the references cited by the Examiner. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of Applicant's claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) cannot be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection and allow said claim.

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Respectfully submitted,



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